

CONSPIRACY REVOLUTION

of the Money and Land-owning Kings of the Period of the War of the

EXPOSED IN

"United States Constitution and Socialism"

BY SILAS HOOD

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Comrades, we are in the fight of our lives. Kanawha county can be carried for Socialism in 1912. It is now up to every comrade in the county to do his duty. All we need do is to carry the message to the working class and educate them. Let us put the Labor Argus in the hands of every working man in Kanawha County, to do this we must have the co-operation of every Socialist. If you are a class conscious Socialist you will subscribe for your Local paper. If you are a live wire you will get others to subscribe. Now is the time to educate the masses, give them a course of Socialist propaganda this fall and winter and they will vote the Socialist ticket in 1912. Don't be a drone comrade, do some thing for the cause. The task of freeing the working class from the chains of wage slavery rest upon the workers. No noses will lead you out of the wilderness of ignorance and slavery, nor will the money powers assist you. The burden is yours, you must free yourself. Get into the fight, see how many subs you can send into the Argus between now and the new year, then make a new year resolution that you will send in more each month of the new year than you did the previous month. Our circulation is growing, but it should grow faster. We must have 10,000 subscribers before the election of 1912. Every comrade must do his part, because we are going to carry Kanawha county, just as sure as the sun rises. In Fayette county we have some tireless workers in the person of Comrade Wilson, Roy and Tittle of Carbondale. These comrades are continually on the job and are getting results. You can do the same, GO AFTER THEM.

What is our State Senator doing riding about in a special train with the head of the Railroad Trust? Thought his partner Sen. W. E. Chilton wanted to bust the trust. The people are not able to ride their State Senator over the country in private cars and wine and dine him on the best the land affords. When Gov. MacCorkle goes into the legislative hall who will be favor in the making of laws. The railroad corporations that re-lins him and pays him fat fees or the people who elected him? He has got to deliver the goods or the corporations won't pay him, but you rules have got to pay him whether he does any thing or not. You are easy marks, it is like taking bread from a baby.

Columbus is now the storm center of Socialism in Ohio. The city campaign is in full blast and the Socialist are out to win. The Columbus Socialist an eight page weekly paper is battering down the walls of capitalism in the Capital City of Ohio and paving the way to victory for the workers. Here is to the success of "The Socialist" and victory for the entire Socialist ticket election day. Go after them Comrades we are with you.

Don't fail to hear J. W. Brown at the court house Wednesday night, September 27. Mr. Brown is an able and eloquent speaker. He has studied the present social and economic questions and is competent to lecture on them. This will be a speech that no small business man or working man can afford to miss. Come and bring your wives. The women are interested in the problems now confronting society. She is equally effected and in most cases must suffer the most, and in most cases must suffer the most.

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Labor Argus

The Paper That

Exposes Graft

The Guard System or Russianizing West Virginia

The blackest spot that stains the pages of the history of West Virginia is the damnable guard system, employed by the coal barons of our state. Such conditions as exist on Cabin Creek, New River and other non-union coal fields of the state, are a disgrace to civilization, and an outrage on American manhood. The brutalities of the hired thugs of the capitalists and coal operators, surpass that of the Cossacks of Russia. The peonage practiced by Barbarous Mexico, of which we read with horror, is practiced here in our own county and state. Russianized West Virginia, where the law-abiding citizens are subjected to brutalities and outrages equalled only by those endured by the oppressed, ignorant and brow-beaten peons of Mexico. Every crime known to criminality has been committed by these hired convicts of the coal barons. These men will stop short of no crime. Men have been murdered by these desperados, for no other offense than belonging to a Labor Union. To go into Cabin Creek or New River districts and declare yourself a labor organizer, is to invite death. All the excuse these guards want is to slug and murder a workingman, is to know that he is a union man. To even be known as a union sympathizer is all the provocation necessary to become the object of a brutal attack by the gun-men. Where is our much boasted freedom in this land of Liberty? Do you call it "A Land of Liberty" where a citizen cannot travel our public highways unless he first get the permission of the coal barons? A land of the free, when a citizen has to get permission to go to the Federal Postoffice? If you do not believe these conditions exist, go into Cabin Creek or the New River Coal Fields and see how far you get without being held up by the company's guards. In these isolated places, the miners are absolutely at the mercy of the coal companies and their armed guards. Through foul means and trickery, the coal companies have been enabled to elect their justices, who, with the other county and state officials, are but a part of the great corrupt machine of oppression. Hear the testimony of one of these hired guards, whose oath would not be taken in Hell, is all the evidence needed to convict a man. The most notorious of these subsidized Justices, are Crawford, of Cabin Creek and Stayton of Loup Creek. But we will deal with these gentlemen in a future article on the subject. The questions that now confront us are these: Who are responsible for these inhuman conditions in the coal fields? Who commission or clothe with authority these gun men of the coal barons? For what purpose are these men commissioned and retained by the coal operators?

First we will take up the question of responsibility. The coal companies have entered into a deal with the railroad corporations and politicians of both old parties for the purpose of fighting organized labor in this section. The corporations through their tools, the state and county officials, who permit these outrages to be perpetrated, are responsible for the conditions, and are equally guilty with the hired criminals who perpetrate the crimes. Our legislature could have passed a law abolishing the guard system, and making such a thing impossible, but neither democrats are republicans offered any such measure. Therefore the whole responsibility rests on the state and county officials for not enforcing the law, and protecting the rights and liberties of the working men of the state.

In answer to the second question these men are commissioned and clothed with authority by the Governor, given free transportation by the railroad corporations, and paid by the coal barons for whom they work. Governor Glasscock in his address on Labor Day said he believed in organized labor. But his actions when he commissions and legalizes these outrages, belie his words. In the first place, these men are not commissioned as coal company guards, but as railroad detectives. But the railroads don't pay them a cent, as they draw their salaries from the coal companies. This is a fraud on the face of the transaction. We can show that these guards are maintained by the coal companies, and commissioned by the Governor, for the sole purpose of fighting organized labor; in other words, the United Mine Workers. If this is not so, why do they not need guards in the organized field? If they are railroad detectives, why do they assault and murder men for belonging to the Miner's Union?

These men are retained for no other purpose than to keep the miners from organizing, and to brow-beat and brutalize them into humble submission to the coal barons. They were commissioned for that purpose only and the Governor knew it when he commissioned them. If the words spoken by Governor Glasscock on Labor Day to the effect that he believed in organized labor that the workers had a right to organize for mutual protection were true, why

does he commission these brutal guards at the behest of the coal barons to fight the organization? Why does he not protect the working men in the exercise of their rights? Our Governor is nothing but a spineless jellyfish, and a tool of the corporations. A man nominated and elected by the special interests. According to Governor Glasscock's own words, he is either a coward or a liar. He either don't believe in the right of labor to organize, as he said he did, or he is too big a coward to protect them in the exercise of these rights.

Next week we will take up the crimes committed by these guards and show that they have been given protection by the officials.

POLITICS

(By W. T. Jasper.)

Politics in the United States is a game played chiefly by office holders.

The government, as you, being an intelligent and patriotic citizen, must know, was made long ago by our forefathers when they drew up that immortal document, the Declaration of Independence, and constitution. So every since that time, every generation has only had several thousand statesmen trying to make a set of laws suitable to and able to withstand this high type of American citizenship. That they are office holders and grafters is a self-evident fact, for a set of laws could have been made in a year or so to last several generations, at least, if law making was the thing actually sought, but it is not a set of practical and useful laws that the statesmen and legislators want, or ever did want, it is graft.

There are, in short, two powers used in American Government; the first is cheap noisy promises made to sovereign citizens before election, and the next is graft given by Capitalists to your representatives in office after election. So, as it stands now, Republicans and Democrats can probably secure some laws that will be of some good to them, by first electing politicians to make them, and then paying them a graft in addition to their salaries for doing so. If the poor could afford to pay their representatives a few thousands more than the corporations, it would result in placing graft, like every other flourishing National Industry, upon a competitive basis.

Now, perhaps there are Republican and Democratic working classes voters who believe that graft is not a generally prevalent condition in the transaction of government. If so, I ask only that you use your reason a little, and see where it leads you to. But since it is such an unusual and indeed wholly unnecessary thing for a Republican or Democratic working class voter to be required to use any reason in politics, I will give you a start by taking one illustration.

When you elect representatives to office, he does not, in the first consideration, have to pass any laws at all. The Constitution, nor any law, does not require him to pass any. Catch that? It merely says that "There shall be a Senate and House of Representatives," at so much salary, but it does not require them to do anything whatever. If you are well informed in current literature, you will know that for years and years, and at present, the various state and National houses meet for regular business with as few as ten members of several hundred present—not once, but regularly. They don't even present themselves in Chambers, as a rule. So you see they know THEY DO NOT HAVE TO CREATE LAWS UNLESS IT SUITS THEM, and they do not make laws unless they receive graft for it from some source. Moreover, if the laboring classes could go into the legislative chambers and offer each representative enough graft, as a bribe for his vote to make him independently wealthy for the rest of his days, a full set of labor laws would be passed in any form that their lawyers drafted them.

This is just how corporations get special privileges. Their lawyers draft the laws, and the corporations give bribes to the Republican and Democratic lawmakers that you elected ON THEIR PROMISES, and the law is passed.

This Mr. Woodrow Wilson, Mr. Lafolette and other reformers call the "corrupt influence of business upon politics." These gentlemen hope to remove this "corrupt influence," but I may assert, it will not be removed as long as "Statesmen" are elected to office WITH NO PARTICULAR THING TO ACCOMPLISH EXCEPT PATCH ON REFORMS TO THE SYSTEM AT SO MUCH GRAFT PER REFORM.

However, while there is this "corrupt influence of business on Politics," there is, also, a "corrupt influence" of politics on business, and I want to write upon this in another issue at some length. For the present, I will conclude by saying that both politics and "business" have a very bad influence upon the Republican and Democratic voters, if he only knew it, and it is their duty to themselves to see that politics receives some other signifi-

cance than graft, and representation of graft. Some other purpose than a game of chance, treachery, bribes and meekery. To do this, they will have to use what reasoning ability they have in an examination of their party, its principles and record, in relation to the working class's interest. Such is the right and duty of citizenship. Such is the moral requirement of any man.

The McNamara Bros. Pleased with Labor Day Demonstration

THE PRISONERS' LIBERTIES WERE CURTAILED AT THE BEHEST OF BURN

Los Angeles, Sept. 21—John J. McNamara has spent the past few days reading labor papers and magazines giving accounts of labor day parades, meetings and demonstrations. Today he gave out the following statement with the request it be sent to his friends:

I appreciate and am deeply touched by labor's demonstrations, and I take this opportunity of expressing my heartfelt thanks to friends and co-workers for the time and energy put forward to make the labor day celebration as a success, and particularly for the large share of attention my and my brother's cause have received in the demonstrations and by orators at all points.

I also take this opportunity of thanking co-workers and friends for the sacrifices and the efforts put forth in raising the necessary funds for the defense against the unjust and untrue charges that have been lodged against us.

The part of the funds intended for a full and final prosecution of the persons responsible for our deportation to California meets with my hearty approval. I believe that this is the proper time to settle once and for all the question of the abduction of labor men and their bounding by irresponsible private detective agencies. This opportunity should be taken advantage of and nothing should be left undone to prevent future recurrences.

That a strike on the entire Harrison system is inevitable is the opinion of labor men here. The statement of Samuel Gompers that the whole power of the United States government is pledged to the support of the railroad in the coming strike, has created a tremendous sensation in labor circles in Southern California. The following statement was made by Samuel Gompers before his arrival in Los Angeles.

"I have seen a suppressed telegram to a Wall street man which stated that the United States government has assured General Manager Kruttschnitt of the Harriman lines that in the event of a strike the Unions would be proceeded against under the Sherman anti-trust law as a combination in restraint of trade."

It is believed the local Southern Pacific officials have a thorough understanding with the civil and military authorities here, and that the authorities will do all they can to make a show of armed force in order that they may be able to convince the public of the dangerous character of the men who have gone out on a strike.

A recent organized battery with spectacular looking machine guns is anxious to get into action and the officers of the militia are equally eager to see something started that will enable them to work up enthusiasm among the boys of southern California in order to make recruiting volunteers less difficult.

"Nothing can stop the strike now. We have got to go ahead. The threats from Washington and Wall street makes us even more determined. We will win by peaceful means and, if necessary, fight the combined powers of capitalism in the courts. As for the military demonstrations, we will give the organized, legalized butchers no excuse for assembling," said a union leader in Los Angeles.

"We know the city is filled with gun-men and strikebreakers and that a number of these professional thugs have been imported to start trouble if possible but our boys are on to that game of working for public sentiment and we will not fall into any traps. There will be conferences and referendums but I believe the strike is bound to come."

Both sides in Los Angeles have long been decided and the workers are only waiting the word and they will walk out as one man. The scabs who are in the various iron works in Los Angeles are anxious to go to the shops and a number of them may walk out of the foundries leaving a still greater shortage in the structural iron works where a strike has been in progress for over a year.

Orders given to Sheriff W. A. Ham-mell by Burns operatives has resulted in curtailing the liberties of John J. and James B. McNamara in the

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county jail. Henceforth the men will be restricted within the confines of their cells.

The barred cells where the men are confined are enclosed in a steel walled, room about 14 feet square. There is a narrow passage all around the cells and when the prisoners were permitted to walk around outside of their cells it gave them an opportunity to get near a barred window and breathe pure air. It also gave them an opportunity to get some exercise.

The orders given to the jailers will work a severe hardship on the men and especially on John B. McNamara who feels the need of the walk around and around the narrow room where he paced hour after hour much of the time with book in hand and only stopping at intervals to make notes on a pad he kept on a small table in his cell.

To make the punishment more severe the Burns men ordered two small potted plants which the prisoners prized very highly, removed from the cell. One of these was a fern the boys had tenderly nursed throughout the months they have been confined in the cell. All flowers have been prohibited.

It is believed Burns hopes to weak the men down by the close confinement and break them physically before the trial begins. The attorneys for the defense declined to comment on the treatment of the prisoners but they confirmed the statement of the treatment they are receiving at the hands of the jailer.

Thirty nine Los Angeles working-men will appear in court on Monday September 16 to answer to a charge of violating the antipicket ordinance. These men have been arrested through

out the past year. Most of them have been under \$50 bail for over a year. Four hundred men have been arrested under this infamous law and many have been confined to jail for want of bail when the amounts have been excessive.

The city prosecutor has taken in active interest in these cases recently and upon their revival will make another strenuous effort to secure convictions and prison sentences against the men.

All the men with the exception of two are brewery workers, carpenters, mechanics and drivers. The brewery workers won their strike two months ago and all have returned to work. There are two metal workers in the list and special attention has been given to their cases as all metal workers have been especially prosecuted whenever an opportunity has been offered.

Berkeley, Cal. Sept. 21—A startling contrast between the difference in the way capitalist and Socialist administrations deal with gun-men and strike breakers was given here with John P. Fifley was arrested by a plain clothes patrolman and lodged in jail on a charge of carrying concealed deadly weapons.

Fifley was one of a number of gun men who are acting as scabs in lumber yards in Oakland. It is a notorious fact that Oakland police drive around in buggies guarding the scab drivers and lumber shovers.

Mayor J. Stitt Wilson the Socialist who is making such a magnificent record in Berkeley ordered the police to be on the alert for any of the thugs who might come into Berkeley. The result was the arrest of one bad man who doubtless will be given a jail sentence.

CURRENT COMMENT

(By O. H. Adkinson.)

From all indications, the slogan of the Harrison county grafters was, Let the People Pay.

At the recent conference of Governors, Gov. Glasscock went on record against the recall of Judges. To be more exact he was put on record by those who own him.

With many workers, lining up in the Fall parades was heaven. Doing similar service in the bread lines is the other place.

When capitalistic rascality nominate and elect officials to the tune of "Hark! the Conquering Hero Comes," it is only natural that they should go out of office to the dreadful strain of "The Rognie's March."

About half the amount of money which former officials of Harrison county filched from the people has been paid back, but as yet no arrests have been made. However Prosecuting Attorney, Will E. Morris, is being urged by the Socialists and all honest citizens of the county to bring the guilty ones to justice. He owes his success in politics to the manipulations of the offenders, but it is believed that at the proper time he will employ every effort to bring about their conviction.

Congressman John W. Davis, of the first district, is a great friend of those who toil. He never spends any time in securing legislation for their benefit, but he loves them just the same. Where John does them priceless service is at the Board of Trade banquets. One might think that his tongue efforts at these gatherings would be strictly in the interest of his sleek and well-fed hearers. But not so. All who are familiar with his record in the "mother" Jones case, and know how he hates (?) trusts, are well aware that it would have been folly for the working class to have voted for any other candidate. He should by all means be elected as a Congressman-at-large. His noble and self sacrificing efforts in the interest of the exploited should not be limited

to the narrow confines of one district.

In a recent issue of Health Culture, one of the leading physicians of the country explains the evil effects of the products of soda fountains, and points out how more than half the persons who patronize these places are forced to do so by the profit mongers. Before the business reaches such gigantic proportions, almost every city and town had public fountains where drinking water could be procured free of charge. But for the benefit of the "dopers" these fountains have been abolished and the people are compelled to accept a harmful substitute and pay for it.

What is true of soda fountains is true in every thing else. For some time it had been the custom to give free band concerts in Clarksburg on Saturday evenings, but the merchants protested against it on the ground that it hurt "bizness". No matter how beneficial to the public anything may be, it is doomed the minute it interferes with the profits of the privileged.

THE MARCH OF DESTINY

By John M. Work

The thing that strikes terror and dismay to the hearts of the capitalists is the fact that the Socialist movement keeps marching steadily, constantly and persistently onward.

To them this is a new, inexplicable phenomenon. They have been accustomed to killing off radical political movements by shrewd maneuvers. They confidently expected to lay the Socialist movement in its grave in the same manner.

But continuous events have rudely awakened them to the fact that the Socialist movement is a law unto itself. It does not respond to the old tactics. Capitalist weapons hurled against it, rebound with their points turned.

The Socialist movement is not a loose organization of half-baked reformers who are hazy as to what they want.

On the contrary it is a compact organization of class-conscious, definite, positive aggressive men and

(Continued on page five.)

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